

REFERENCE TITLE: agricultural commuter worker permit program

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2006

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Introduced by
Representatives Jones, Pierce: Chase, Konopnicki, McComish, McLain,
O'Halleran, Weiers JP

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT AN AGRICULTURAL COMMUTER WORKER PERMIT PROGRAM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, agriculture along the southern United States border is often
4 seasonal and concentrated within tight time frames in which highly perishable
5 crops must be produced and harvested in a timely manner or the entire crop
6 could be lost; and

7 Whereas, farmers along the southern border face calamities of weather,
8 pests and market conditions along with stringent requirements to provide a
9 safe and wholesome supply of food for the citizens of the United States and
10 the world; and

11 Whereas, agriculture requires a stable and reliable source of labor in
12 order to produce enough food to meet the needs of our citizens so the United
13 States does not become dependent on foreign nations for our food supply; and

14 Whereas, the total economic impact of Arizona agriculture for 2004 was
15 approximately \$9.2 billion, providing an integral economic contribution
16 throughout our state; and

17 Whereas, agriculture requires access to a stable and reliable pool of
18 foreign workers due to an aging and increasingly educated native born
19 workforce and employees leaving agricultural work for other industries; and

20 Whereas, current agricultural work visa programs fail to provide timely
21 access to necessary labor; and

22 Whereas, an agricultural commuter worker permit program can complement
23 both border security and workplace enforcement while allowing a natural flow
24 of labor; and

25 Whereas, an agricultural commuter worker permit program will help abate
26 many of the social and human costs in terms of crime and deaths in the
27 desert; and

28 Whereas, an agricultural commuter worker permit program will allow
29 willing agricultural workers to commute from their country of origin to work
30 in the United States while maintaining their country of origin residency.

31 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
32 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

33 1. That the United States Congress include an agricultural commuter
34 worker permit program as part of immigration reform legislation that allows
35 foreign workers to commute across the border daily to work in the United
36 States if they have passed criminal and security background checks and a
37 medical examination and if they possess tamper-resistant biometric
38 authorization cards.

39 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
40 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
41 the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from
42 the State of Arizona.